



**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Treatment Committee
January 16, 2019, 10:00 AM
Middletown Police Department**

Committee Members Present: Juan Rodriguez (People's Place), Brendan O'Neill (Office of Defense Services), Ava Carcieri (Family Court), Rob Coupe (DSHS), Shamla McLaurin (Catholic Charities) and Dan Armstrong (CHILD Inc.)

DVCC Staff: Aimee String & Maureen Monagle

Public Attendees: No members of the public present

- I. Approval of Minutes from 10/17/18
- II. Old Business
 - a. Domestic Violence Intervention Standards: Pre-Revision Sub-committee Conversation
 - i. What is "successful completion" of a treatment program?
 1. Programs hesitate to use the word "successful" because we have no way of knowing how participants behave once they are back in their real environment. Programs do get feedback from the partners of participants but only in about 20% of the cases. In about 40% of cases, intervention providers are unable to identify where the victim is.
 2. Programs agreed that they consider completion to be the important benchmark. Programs also look for cognitive change in the program participant (ie: do they have an understanding of what domestic violence is, do they understand the principles of respectful communication, etc.)
 3. The committee discussed the possibility of measuring "successful completion" by completion of the required weeks along with utilizing the Batterers' Intervention Program Proximal Outcome Survey (BIPPOS) developed by Dr. Manakowski.
 - a. Intervention programs indicated that the survey would not be difficult to administer at the beginning and end of the program.
 - ii. There is currently no mechanism in place to inform the courts about a client's participation or lack thereof in a treatment program.
 - iii. Intervention Program's goal should be to encourage cognitive change in every client but it's important to recognize that intervention programs will not work for everyone.

- iv. What should the programs be called going forward?
 - 1. There has been a national trend and Delaware has indicated a desire to move away from the term “Batterer’s Intervention”. It is believed that we should be labeling behaviors, not people.
 - 2. The committee would like programs to be identified in the future as Domestic Violence Intervention Programs (DVIP).
 - b. Training for Intervention Providers
 - i. The committee has identified the desire to continue to provide training opportunities for Intervention Providers. The goal of the committee is to identify funding that would allow us to do that yearly. For the immediate future, we will continue to identify ways to incorporate intervention provider tracks into existing trainings. We’ve been fortunate to be able to provide trainings hours within the Emerge and LET conferences.
 - c. Annual Reports
 - i. CHILD, Inc has submitted their Annual Report. Turning Point at People’s Place, Catholic Charities and the Family Advocacy Program have indicated their intent to submit their reports by the end of the month.
- III. New Business
 - a. Establishing a committee to begin revision of the DV Intervention Standards
 - i. Now that the Evaluation of the DVIPs is complete, the committee will establish a sub-committee to begin the revision of the standards. Aimee will send out an e-mail soliciting volunteers this week. Once the committee members are established, they will meet to identify a timeline and plan for the revision.
 - b. Trends in the field
 - i. Aimee noted that nationally programs are seeing an uptick in defiance and opposition within DVIPs. Delaware programs have not seen an increase to date.
- IV. Agency Reports
 - a. Blanche Creech is the new Associate Director of DV services at People’s Place.
- V. Public Comment
 - a. No members of the public were present.
- VI. Future Meetings: All meetings will be held at 10:00 AM at the Middletown Police Department Conference Room.
 - i. April 17, 2019
 - ii. July 17, 2019
 - iii. October 16, 2019